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The Advisor

Mar/Apr 2006

A York County Newsletter for Professional Horticulturists
And Workers in the Green Industry

2006 Calendar of Events

- Mar 2 **Virginia Flower Growers Association's Greenhouse Update 2006**, Henrico County Extension Office, Richmond, VA. www.virginiagreen.org/EventsInfo/2006GHUpdateReg.pdf
- Mar 5-12 **Philadelphia Flower Show**, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. www.philadelphiaflowershow.com or www.theflowershow.com
- Mar 7-10 **ISA Certification Course (7th-9th) and Exam (10th)**, sponsored by MAC-ISA, Clarksburg, MD. www.mac-isa.org
- Mar 8 **Threats to the Urban Forest, A Trees Virginia Workshop**, Roanoke, VA. www.treesvirginia.org
- Mar 11-19 **2006 New England Spring Flower Show**, Bayside Expo Center, Boston, MA. www.masshort.org
- Mar 15-17 **Potomac Division, American Phytopathological Society Meeting**, Rehoboth Beach, MD. www.filebox.vt.edu/users/abaudoin/potomac/
- Mar 27-28 **Workshop on Managing and Understanding the Hispanic Workforce**, sponsored by VA Tech and USDA Forest Service, Princeton WV. www.forestindustries.vt.edu/workshop.html and www.forestindustries.vt.edu/hispanic.pdf
- Apr 4-6 **5th National IPM Symposium, Delivering a Promise**, St. Louis, MO. www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposiumv
- Apr 9 **MAC-ISA Tree Climbing Championship and Trade Show**, Glenn Dale, MD. www.mac-isa.org
- Apr 18-20 **Environment Virginia 2006**, sponsored by VMI, Lexington, VA. www.environmentva.org
- Apr 22 **CNU's 9th Annual Gardening Symposium: Smart Gardening in Tidewater**, CNU's Student Center, Newport News, VA. <http://lifelonglearning.cnu.edu/garden.html>
- Apr 22-23 **Leesburg Flower and Garden Show**, Loudoun County, Leesburg, VA
- Apr 28 **Virginia Arbor Day and National Arbor Day**, www.arborday.org/arborday/index.cfm
- Apr 30 - May 3 **60th Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium, Celebrating the American Garden: Spaces for Relaxing and Entertaining**, Williamsburg, VA. www.history.org/History/institute/Images/GardenSymposiumPDF.pdf
- May 6 **York County Master Gardener Plant Sale**, 301 Goodwin Neck Road, Yorktown, VA.
- May 9-10 **National Hardware Show and Lawn & Garden World**, Las Vegas, NV. www.nationalhardwareshow.com
- May 11-17 **2006 World Rose Convention**, Osaka, Japan. www.worldrose-osaka2006.jp/roseinjapan/index.html
- May 12-15 **Joint 2006 American Rhododendron Society and Azalea Society of American Convention**, Rockville, MD. <http://arspvc.org/2006/>
- May 21- Jun 1 **Spring Tour of the Gardens of Japan**, Virginia Tech Department of Horticulture www.mcduff.hort.vt.edu/Japan2006/Index.html
- May 23-27 **Chelsea Flower Show**, Birmingham, England. www.rhs.org.uk/chelsea/2005/index.asp
- Jun 8-10 **Super Floral Show**, Salt Lake City, UT. www.superfloralshow.com
- Jun 13-14 **International Water Garden & Pond Show**, Rosemont, Chicago, IL. www.watergartenshow.com
- Jun 13-15 **National Lawn & Garden Show**, Rosemont, Chicago, IL. www.nlgshow.com

www.ext.vt.edu

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

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DOLLARS & SENSE**ORNAMENTAL PLANT DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC**

Virginia Tech's Hampton Roads Agricultural Research & Extension Center has compiled a database of plant diseases diagnosed at the Plant Disease Clinic at Tech and at the HRAREC over the past 6 years. This resource will help growers, landscapers, and homeowners diagnose problems on ornamental plants by providing a searchable list of diseases known to have occurred on given ornamental plant species in Virginia over the past 6 years. Extension Publication 450-802 is now available online at www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/plantdiseases/450-802/450-802.html

SPECIALTY CROPS SURVEY UNDERWAY

A survey on the production and marketing practices of fruit, vegetable, specialty crop growers, and direct marketers in Virginia is underway. The survey is an integral part of a research effort to analyze the potential for small fruit and specialty market development as an alternative to tobacco production in Virginia.

www.ext.vt.edu/news/periodicals/fmu/2006-02/survey.html

NATIONAL BOXWOOD TRIALS REPORT 2006

Choose the best Boxwoods! More than fifty boxwood trial test cooperators from the United States and several international sites present this comprehensive evaluation manual for boxwood cultivars. With this data, you now have a high degree of predictability for performance of some of the best boxwood cultivars from the Atlantic seaboard to Mid-America. This 112-page manual is full of pictures and information laid out in an easy-to-understand format. Report costs \$24 (includes S&H) and can be ordered from Saunders Brothers, Piney River, VA.

www.saundersbrothers.com/Trial%20Order%20Form.htm

KEEPING PESTICIDE RECORDS

Applying pesticides in the U.S. involves keeping careful records of what was applied, when, by whom, and other details. A very handy, no-nonsense, adjunct for carrying out and organizing the necessary data logging is the *Recordkeeping Manual For Private Pesticide Applicators* from the USDA Pesticide Records Branch. In addition to explaining the record keeping process and rationale, the 52-page (mostly blank forms), 2004 spiral bound (so it lays flat) manual includes a section on the all-important matter of sprayer calibration as well as a table of useful measurements. For free copies contact:

USDA Pesticide Records Branch

8609 Sudley Rd., Suite 203,
Manassas, VA 20110-4582.

Phone: 703-330-7826, Fax: 703-330-6110,

Email: amspesticide.records@usda.gov.

Or .pdf download: www.ams.usda.gov/science/sdpr.htm

APRIL IS NATIONAL GARDEN MONTH**AMERICA'S ANNIVERSARY GARDEN**

The first official garden was planted at Jamestown on Jan 12th with Governor-elect Tim Kaine participating as part of the 18 month long celebration of America's 400th Anniversary. Communities and citizens will be improving their streets, parks, schools, businesses, and gardens as part of the commemoration. For suggested garden designs, plant lists, participating growers and retailers, and other resources go to *America's Anniversary Garden* web site: www.ext.vt.edu/americasgarden/index.html www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/envirohort/426-211/426-211.html

VIRGINIA FARMS FACTS

Source: USDA Economic Research Service data updated December 8, 2005.

2004 Farm Financial Indicators:

- 47,500 farms had total net income of \$627.6 million (average of \$13,190), up from \$470.7 million in 2002.
- Greenhouse/nursery receipts of \$232.5 million ranked 4th in value for all commodities (livestock, crops) or 8.7%

2002 Farm Characteristics:

- Average farm size: 181 acres, 56.8% were smaller than 100 acres, and 2.9% were 1,000 acres or larger. There was little change from 1997 data.
- Farm sales: 67% less than \$10,000, 20% had between \$10-50 thousand and only 2.3% had more than \$500,000.
- Principal farm operator's average age was 56.7 years and for 53.6%, this was their primary occupation.
- Certified organic crop farms were 139 (337 for all commodities) using 3,264 acres to produce \$4.3 million in organic crops.

www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts/VA.htm#FC

USDA VALUE-ADDED PRODUCER GRANTS**APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 31, 2006**

Approximately \$19 million in competitive matching grants is available to help independent agricultural producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, agricultural producer groups, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures. Value-added grants may be used for planning activities and for working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy.

Interested producers or groups should contact Charles Green at VDACS' Office of Agribusiness Development Services by telephone, 804-786-3502, or by e-mail at charles.green@vdacs.virginia.gov, who works with prospective and existing agribusinesses to help them with location or expansion plans. Services range from providing marketing assistance to promoting regional cooperation to foster business growth and development.

<http://vdacs.virginia.gov/news/releases-a/101206vaulegrants.html>
www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm

E.Y.I.**WORLD'S 1ST PLANT-MADE VACCINE REGISTRATION**

USDA announced on Jan 31st the issuance of a license to DOW AgroSciences for a vaccine to protect chickens from Newcastle virus disease (NCV). The chicken vaccine is the first fully licensed plant-cell-produced vaccine for animals. Bits of NCV genetic material were inserted in tobacco cells to produce the vaccine.

www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2006/01/ndvaccine.shtml
www.dowagro.com/newsroom/corporatenews/2006/20060131b.htm
 Daily press, Tech Bits, Feb 6, 2006

Mid-Atlantic Guide to Insect Pests and Beneficials of Corn, Soybean, and Small Grains

This free insect identification guide is full color, pocket-sized, laminated and specific to Mid-Atlantic region and is the result of a cooperative project by Virginia Tech, the University of Delaware, and the University of Maryland.

www.sripmc.org/midatlanticguide.cfm

**NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES INFORMATION CENTER (NISIC) WEB SITE LAUNCHED**

NISIC at the National Agricultural Library (NAL) has launched a redesigned Web site making it easier to find information about invasive species. The design of the new site allows better cross-referencing of information across the site and features links to images, fact sheets, management plans, and an extensive list of agencies and organizations with interest in preventing, controlling, or eradicating invasive species. More than 80 species profiles are currently available, including the northern snakehead fish, cane toad, brown tree snake, fire ants, nutria, West Nile Virus, water hyacinth, and kudzu.

www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/index.shtml

2006 PEST MANAGEMENT GUIDES

The 2006 Pest Management Guides are available online in PDF format at Virginia Tech's Extension website at www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/pmg/. Guides are divided into three volumes: **Horticultural and Forest Crops** (456-017), **Home Grounds and Animals** (456-018), and **Field Crops** (456-016). Each of the volumes is further divided into chapters and/or sections, which can be viewed, printed or downloaded.

EPA AVIAN (BIRD) FLU DISINFECTANTS WEB PAGE

EPA has posted a new web site, [Antimicrobial Products to Disinfect Poultry and Other Facilities Against Avian \(Bird\) Flu](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/antimicrobials/avian/), which provides information and a list of antimicrobial products to disinfect poultry and other facilities against avian (bird) flu. Information about and links to other avian influenza sites is provided.

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**BASIC SOIL SCIENCE WORKSHOP**

March 9-10, Williamsburg, VA.

May 25-26, Charlottesville, VA.

A VA Tech taught intense two-day short course for biologists, geologists, environmental health specialists, land developers, surveyors, contractors, engineers and individuals who want to learn more about soil science.

The short course will focus on understanding soil physical, chemical and morphological properties in natural and managed landscapes. wdaniels@vt.edu
<http://vaturf.org/fm/VTBasicSoilsCourse.pdf>

EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL WORKSHOP

Mar 8, Fredericksburg, VA. Sponsored by the Virginia Turfgrass Council with assistance provided by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

<http://vaturf.org/fm/ErosionBrochure.pdf>

VNLA VIRGINIA CERTIFIED HORTICULTURIST EXAM

Mar 13, Henrico County Gov't Complex, Richmond

Mar 16, Central VA Comm College, Lynchburg

Mar 18, Lancaster Farms, Suffolk

www.vnla.org 1-800-476-0055

PESTICIDE APPLICATOR RECERTIFICATION COURSES

Category 3A, 3B, 5A, 6, 10, 60

Mar 2****, Richmond, Patrick Connelly, 804-754-3590

Mar 24, Virginia Beach Central Library, Virginia Beach, Susan French, 757-427-4769

Mar 31(Cat 8 & 60 only), Chesapeake, Jeff Hottenstein

Jun 15**, Leesburg, Debbie Dillion, 703-771-5838

Jun 15(less10), Williamsburg, Tom Tracy, 757-464-1004

Jun 15, Norfolk, Susan French, 757-427-4769

Jun 23, Richmond, C. Bruce Williams 910-313-6785

*less 5A; **+8 less 5A&6; ***less 5A&10; ****less 6&10.

For registration or more information contact the phone number listed for each training location.

Complete listing of courses for recertification of Virginia Certified Commercial Pesticide Applicators can be found at the following VDACS web site:

www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/pending.html

Order Pesticide Applicator Training Manuals by credit card from the VCE Distribution Center at 540-231-1325.

The Advisor Newsletter is prepared by:

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2006 Plant Winners

2006 PERENNIAL PLANT OF THE YEAR FIREWITCH, *DIANTHUS GRATIANOPOLITANUS* 'FEUERHEXE'

(also called Cheddar pink), named by the Perennial Plant Association as the 2006 Perennial Plant of the Year™, is an excellent, sun-loving, evergreen perennial with bluish-gray, silvery foliage and purplish-pink fragrant flowers in mid-spring. Rebloom can occur in the summer and into the fall. This cheddar pink is hardy from zones 3 to 9. Mature mats of this cheddar pink have foliage 3 to 4 inches tall and 6 to 12 inches wide. Flowers will reach 6 to 8 inches high.

www.perennialplant.org/ppy/06%20flyer%20%20copy.pdf



Nicotiana F1 'Perfume Deep Purple' has distinct 2 in. star-shaped, rich deep purple flowers with a strong fragrance that scents the evening air. Needs a sunny location, fertile soil, and water to reach 20 in. high, 18 in. wide; no pinching or deadheading needed. Heat tolerant.

COOL SEASON BEDDING PLANT AWARD WINNERS:



Viola F1 "Skippy XL Red-Gold" is the first AAS Viola cornuta. Award was based on unique color combination of ruby red with a violet red shading below the golden yellow face containing whiskers, flower shape (pansy like) and size (1 ½ in.), and freedom of bloom. Plant is 6 in. high, 8 in. wide.



Diascia F1 'Diamonte Coral Rose' is frost tolerant with a long blooming season and grows well in both hot and cool conditions. Flowers are tubular with backward pointing spurs. The five-lobed blooms have broad lower lobes. Needs full sun, spreading habit - great for containers.

VA WILDFLOWER OF THE YEAR 2006 Spicebush, *Lindera benzoin*

is the Virginia Native Plant Society's 2006 selection. Neither flashy nor rare, spicebush is a stalwart plant of wetlands with intricate minute flowers, enchanting fragrance, and modest horticultural potential. www.vnps.org/year.html



2006 ALL AMERICAN SELECTIONS

FLOWER AWARD WINNERS:



Ornamental Pepper 'Black Pearl' has handsome black foliage, branching pyramid shape and produces clusters of black, pearl-like, shiny peppers, which turn red, are edible but very hot. Exceptionally heat tolerant, no serious insect or disease problems, minimal water and fertilizer.



Salvia farinacea 'Evolution' has lilac flower spikes several shades lighter than its closest comparison. 'Evolution' is low maintenance, heat and drought tolerant, providing continuous color from early summer to the first hard frost without deadheading. Best in a full-sun location.



Zinnia F1 'Zowie! Yellow Flame' is the first semi-tall zinnia with a unique bicolor pattern. Each 3-4 in. semi-double bloom flames with a scarlet-rose center and yellow petal edges. Highly recommended for containers, as plants are heat and fairly drought tolerant. Long-lasting cut flower.

BEDDING PLANT AWARD WINNERS:



Dianthus F1 'Supra Purple' is a strong plant that will flower under hot summer growing conditions. Under a foot in height and ten inches wide, they are vigorous and flower through the growing season. Recommended for containers, rock gardens and perennial borders.

VEGETABLE AWARD WINNERS:



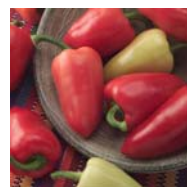
Carrot F1 'Purple Haze' is the only imperator-shaped purple carrot with an orange interior. Purple color fades when cooked in water but remains when cooked quickly in stir-fry. Strongest color is in cool growing conditions (59-68°F). Purple Haze has a great taste and sweet flavor.



Cilantro 'Delfino' is an aromatic, edible herb, with unique, fine fern-like foliage on a branching plant. 'Delfino,' offers two distinctly different flavors – citrus parsley in the leaves/flowers and citrus in the whole or crushed seeds. Prefers full sun; will bolt at high temperature. 20 in. height.



Pepper F1 'Carmen' is an improved sweet pepper of the Italian bull's horn type shape, about 6 in. long with a sweeter taste, earlier maturity, widely adapted, and high yield in full sun. Medium thick flesh is sweet when green but even sweeter when ripe red (75 days). 28-30 in. high, 16 in. wide.



Pepper F1 'Mariachi' produces an abundant crop of high quality, mild chili peppers (Scoville 500 - 600 range) that ripens from creamy white to rose, then red. 'Mariachi' flavor is delicate and complex, having fruity undertones reminiscent of melons at the creamy white stage.

Detail description, growing conditions, and plant characteristics are at: www.all-americanselections.org/Winners.asp.